GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3948
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
AGRO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for development of agro- information technology and its application in modern farming in view of its crucial role in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)to(c) No separate scheme as such for development of agro-information technology has been formulated. However, concerted efforts are being made to promote information technology in agriculture sector through following schemes/programmes:

(i) Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) launched by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) envisages connecting all the major research centres of ICAR, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).It is a network for exchange of information in agricultural research, education and extension across the country through the use of computers, networking equipment and telecommunication. As of now there are 235 ARIS Cells, however, at fullgrowth there would be a total of about 832 ARIS Stations by the end of IXth Plan period.The latest information on agricultural reaearch and extension will be widely and rapidly disseminated to farmers through the ARIS System.

(ii) Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of NATP provides forintensive computerization of various institutioins involved in the project implementation in 24 districts in 6 Project States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab. This computerization through block level institutions of Farmer Information and Advisory Centres

(FIACs) and district level Agricultural Technology Management Agencies

(ATMAs) would help in rapid dissemination of latest and uptodate agricultural technology to the farmers.

(iii) A Central Sector Scheme on Information Technoloogy apparatus in the Headquarters National Agriculture Informatic Centre and Early Warning Information System is being implemented during the 9th plan period.